



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JUL 10 2007

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Austin, TX 78711

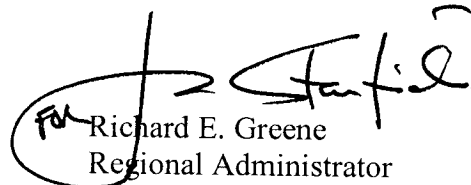
Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter dated June 15, 2007, requesting that Houston-Galveston-Brazoria (Houston) be reclassified to a "severe" 8-hour ozone nonattainment area based on your determination that it will not be able to meet its "moderate" area attainment date of June 15, 2010. Section 181(b)(3) of the Clean Air Act provides that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency shall grant the request of any State to reclassify a nonattainment area in that State to a higher classification. We will begin the process to reclassify the Houston nonattainment area to severe based on your request.

Severe areas must attain the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard no later than June 15, 2019. In the attainment demonstration State Implementation Plan (SIP) that is to be submitted for Houston, the State must demonstrate that the attainment date that it adopts for the Houston area is as expeditious as practicable. We request that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) provide information to show the amount of time needed for the State to submit its plan as soon as practical. We will work with the TCEQ on setting a date for submission of the new SIP obligations and ensuring interim progress in reducing emissions prior to attainment, consistent with Clean Air Act requirements.

Again, thank you for your letter and for your commitment to achieving attainment in the Houston area. If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may call Carl Young of my staff at (214) 665-6645.

Sincerely yours,


Richard E. Greene
Regional Administrator

cc: Kathleen Hartnett White, Chairman
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality